Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 AID-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, HR

SUBJECT: US HUMAN RIGHTS CONTRIBUTION TO OAS PASSES FIRST HURDLE

REF: STATE 235124

1. AT THIRD SESSION OF OAS PROGRAM BUDGET COMMITTEE, US OFFER OF SPECIAL \$102,000 CONTRIBUTION FOR WORK OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) WAS ACCEPTED BY VOTE OF 15-0-2. RESOLUTION THANKED US FOR OFFER DERIVING FROM SENATOR KENNEDY'S AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION AND INSTRUCTED SECRETARY GENERAL TO PRESENT BUDGET SHOWING INTENDED USE OF THESE FUNDS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION BY PERMANENT COUNCIL.

2. EXPLANATIONS OF VOTES BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS MADE CLEAR THAT OFFER STILL FACES SERIOUS OPPOSITION AT PERMANENT COUNCIL LEVEL, BOTH WHEN PRESENTED AS INITIAL RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE AND LATER AS DRAFT BUDGET FOR ACTUAL USE OF FUNDS. BRAZIL MADE STRONGEST STATEMENT CRITICIZING FORM OF CONTRIBUTION AS OUTSIDE THE NORMAL BUDGET ALREADY APPROVED BY THE VI GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY PERMITTING ONE MEMBER STATE, UNILATERALLY, TO SET PRIORITIES FOR THE ORGANIZATION BY MEANS OF SPECIAL DONATIONS. URUGUAY AND PARAGUAY ECHOED

BRAZIL'S CRITICISM. PANAMA'S AMBASSADOR CASTULOVICH ARRIVED LATE, AFTER ACTING REP HAD CAST ONE OF TWO ABSTAINING VOTES, AND USED DISCUSSION OF FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM TO ATTACK US OFFER ON GROUNDS OF IRREGULAR BUDGETARY PROCEDURE AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DANGEROUS PRECEDENT. HE PROMISED TO RETURN TO THESE THEMES DURING PERMANENT COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS. (SEE REFTEL ON PANAMA'S EARLIER OPPOSITION).

3. OFFER HAS THUS PASSED FIRST HURDLE BUT MAY BE STYMIED AT FIRST OR SECOND STAGE OF PERMANENT COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION -- OF RESOLUTION IN PRINCIPLE AND OF IAHRC'S NEW BUDGET. ONE POSSIBLE OUTCOME, IN KEEPING WITH PC'S FONDNESS FOR DEFERRING CONTROVERSIAL DECISIONS, WOULD BE TO REFER SUBJECT TO WORKING GROUP FOR INTERMINABLE REVIEW. WE INTEND TO PRESS HARD FOR A FIRM DECISION TO ACCEPT OR REJECT FUNDS ON MERITS OF OFFER AND OVERALL CONSONANCE WITH GOALS OF OAS RATHER THAN SEE IT BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURAL IRRESOLUTION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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